

North Schuylkill



District Newsletter

February 2017

2016-2017 North Schuylkill School District Goals

At the beginning of the school year, Dr. Ackell spoke about the District Goals for the 2016-2017 School Year. The first goal is Focused Instruction and being aware of What is being taught, When it is being taught, and How it is being taught. The second goal is Accountability for All, and the third is Using Data to Drive Instruction. He followed that by speaking to teachers and staff about the “theme” for this year.

The District theme is “The Great Wing—A Flock Mind” and is still going strong. This theme is based off of a story about a goose named Gomer. Gomer did not have the confidence to lead the flock, but he was told by the grand goose that he would have to face his fears because every goose needs to fly in the formation and eventually lead the flock when needed. If faced with the challenge of a storm, the lead goose must continue to guide the flock through the storm. Gomer practiced very hard to build up the courage to face his fear and was able to guide the flock. The bottom line is, it is all about a flock mind—growth and the synergy, which is the increased effectiveness that results when two or more people work together.

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Greatness
Of
Many
Equals
Results

This year, the Jr./Sr. High school students have kicked off a **Think Big Campaign**. Think Big is a Pennsylvania organization that raises money to help families beat pediatric cancer. So far this year, the North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School has already raised over \$4,000.00 through a variety of fundraising events such as a t-shirt sale, penny war event, and dress down days. On **Friday February 17th**, the Think Big committee will be hosting an all-night Dance Marathon in the North Schuylkill **JSHS Gymnasium** from **9PM to 9AM** in an effort to raise more money for this great organization. Get ready to dance the night away!!



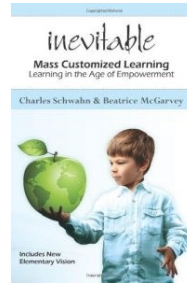
Facebook.com/NorthSchuylkillSD



Twitter.com/NorthSchuylkill

Mass Customized Learning—Hershey Lodge Inevitable—Beatrice McGarvey

Some of the administrators of the North Schuylkill School District attended the 2016 Pennsylvania Department of Education conference in Hershey, PA this past Fall. One of the Key Note speakers was Beatrice McGarvey. She is the co-author of the book "Inevitable". The main message that was brought back to North Schuylkill was the fact that the world is changing....no, actually, it has already changed! She talked about the fact that we have left the Industrial Age of Mass Production, and have seen our way into, and maybe have even passed the Informational Age of Mass Customization. Her message to the administrators was that school districts need to be taken out of the assembly line approach in education.



As noted in her book; "Mass Customizing" is a bit difficult to define, but quite easily understood. When living in the Industrial Age, we were the happy recipients of this great new technology labeled "Mass Production". We all got the same products, there were enough to go around and, if not, we would simply restart the assembly line and make some more. Think Ford Cars, Zenith Televisions, Scott Foresman Basal Readers.

A few quotes from the presentation that revolved around her session on instruction being tailored to each student's needs and interests were:

- "Motivation spikes with learner interests"
- "Success breeds success and influences esteem, attitude, and motivation"
- "Mistakes are inherent in learning"
- "Process and specific feedback enhances learning"

Ms. McGarvey provided a new and exciting vision for educators that uses today's powerful mass customizing technology to meet the individual needs and interests of every learner, every day. She explained how educators can do what Apple has done for music lovers, what Amazon has done for profiling reading interests, and what Google has done by organizing the information we want. Pandora allows us to customize our music, Starbucks allows us to have a venti decaf, our iPads with Google, allow us to go anywhere in the world while sipping our venti decaf. School districts need to mass customize!

2017

Spring Testing Dates

PSSA Tests:

Grade 3	April 3—May 5
Grade 4	April 3—May 5
Grade 5	April 3—May 5
Grade 6	April 3—May 5
Grade 7	April 3—May 5
Grade 8	April 3—May 5

Keystone Exams:

ELA	May 16—May 26
Algebra I	May 16—May 26
Biology	May 16—May 26



Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)

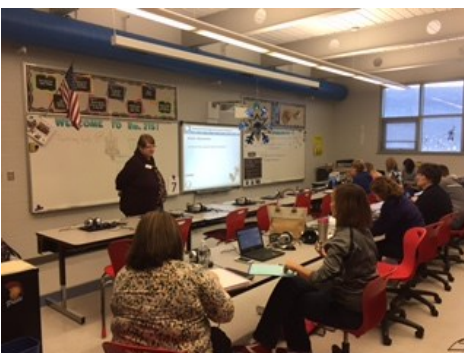
During a variety of trainings and in-service hours, teachers have been using the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) website as a tool. A number of teachers also met with representatives from PDE for Math, Science, Social Studies and English Language Arts. These representatives will be visiting all of the North Schuylkill staff in August 2017. Teachers at the NSSD have also been using the PDE SAS website to house our curriculum maps, view the standards, and much more. In fact, during the January in-service, teachers K-12 were provided with the Item Scoring Samplers.

PDE provides districts and schools with tools to assist in delivering focused instructional programs aligned with the Pennsylvania Core Standards (PCS). These tools include; Academic Standards, Assessment Anchor documents, assessment handbooks, and content-based item and scoring samplers. This Item and Scoring Sampler is a useful tool for Pennsylvania educators in preparing local instructional programs. It can also be useful in preparing students for the statewide assessments.

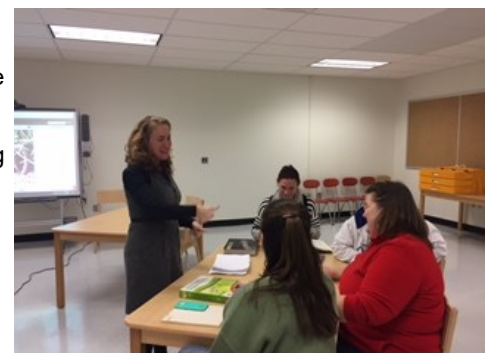


The item and scoring sampler contain test questions (items) that have been written to align to the Assessment Anchors that are based on the Pennsylvania Core Standards (PCS). The test questions provide examples of items that will appear on an operational, PCS-based PSSA. Each sample test question has been through a rigorous review process to ensure alignment with the Assessment Anchors. They give teachers a better understanding of how questions are asked so teachers can prepare assessments with the same rigor of the PSSA Exams.

Teacher In-Service—January 2017



Teachers were very busy during the January in-service....but, it was well worth the work! From the presentation with a Pearson representative on differentiating the curriculum to looking to purchase a new Science series with McGraw Hill, to collaborating on our curriculum maps on PDE SAS, comparing our assessments so not only our instruction is updated, but also that our assessments include more rigor as well. Teachers spent the day taking their current talents to the next level!



Business in Education

The North Schuylkill School District is very excited to incorporate even more business and education initiatives! Our administration is passionate about students getting direct exposure to career opportunities, and our teachers are dedicated to provide the lessons necessary to carry out those initiatives. Below is a snapshot of what we have been doing and where we would like to go. The North Schuylkill School District will continue our relationships with partnering entities and build on the endless possibilities for our students and community.



Students of the NSSD continue to have monthly presentations by county employment agencies that may be part of the Pottsville - Pennsylvania Career Link to provide career readiness and awareness to students.



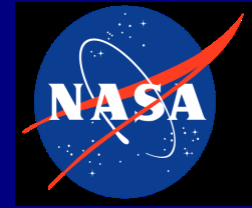
The North Schuylkill School District also has the following programs in place to build on: Our 7th and 8th grade students compete in “What’s so Cool about Manufacturing Contest” each year, thanks to Samantha White, Kelly Stone, and Sue Prushinski. More information can be found on the Dream it Do It website. Along with this, students have the opportunity to attend Schuylkill Technology Center beginning in grade 10 to learn a trade. All 12th grade Schuylkill Technology

Center students complete the “YES” course and other seniors have the option to take the course as an elective. We provide a Career Interest Profiler activity through Naviance in 9th grade. Students in grades 8-11 meet individually with their guidance counselor to schedule courses of interest and skill each year, and our juniors and seniors each meet individually to discuss future plans. The Lowe’s Distribution Center does a presentation for all interested seniors, and our Industrial Arts Program works very closely with Ashland Technologies.



We take these initiatives very seriously and have recently had a “round table” discussion with the Northeast PA Manufacturing and Employers Counselors to discuss changes we would like to make. Below are a few that we discussed, as well as, areas we can build on. Expansions at the North Schuylkill School District include: making the “YES” program mandatory now for younger students and focus on 9th grade rather than just seniors; have a learning style piece included with Naviance; include a job shadowing course into our rotation of 9th grade students; have a career cluster activity in 10th grade; hold a career fair here on campus; have a proposed Mock Interview Day and bring local business representatives in to conduct the interviews (Wegman’s, Highland, Weaver’s, Ashland Technology, Solar Innovations, etc.) and, our 12th grade STC students will have the opportunity to Co-Op and leave in the afternoon to their place of employment.

We created a timeline of goals for a student’s career experiences. Some of the plans include: presentations by local postsecondary institutions that are focused on career preparation and career interests, presentations by local businesses to students for recruitment purposes, explanation of skills needed to be an effective employee, job shadowing, work mentoring placements, business partnerships with local business. In addition to “real life” experiences that support employment based on the needs of each student, a local Bank, BB&T, provided the “Ever Life” curriculum which focuses on financial skills needed for all careers. The course is dedicated to career awareness, career preparation, and entitled “Transition” to assist students with special needs to identify their career goal and prepare each student with the skills needed to become a contributing member of the workforce and community. And finally, two years ago all teachers visited various manufacturing companies and gained knowledge of what skills are necessary to succeed in obtaining a job. We hope to incorporate those soft skills into daily lessons.



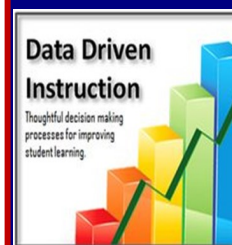
Teachers participated in a certification workshop for the Luna Sample Disk supported by NASA during our January 16 in-service. Mrs. Jenn Rex did an amazing job at organizing and presenting the material.



Data Delay Update:

The teachers at both the Elementary and Jr./Sr. High School continue to amaze us with their adoption of data delays. With the team “data leaders”, they have reviewed growth charts from the beginning of the year to drive future instruction. The teachers first started using data to create sections and small groups in their classrooms and were digging deeper with data packets. They also analyzed individual student projections on PVAAS.

Groups at the Jr./Sr. HS have been completing recommendation forms on Google Docs from the student data they have been compiling. The PVAAS projections have been a very effective tool. This will allow teachers to have a better understanding of where students are at the start of a course so they can individualize instruction more.



Teachers at the elementary building have been reviewing DIBELS data, growth charts, and benchmark data to create groups. Teachers also began to experiment with the Launchpad on PVAAS for classroom grouping as well.

Elementary teachers have been working in groups to not only look at student data, but also to get a better picture of the MTSS model, tiers, roles, and responsibilities. They had the opportunity to peruse the toolkit and progress monitoring resources. In summary, data delays have been very productive in terms of identifying the Individual needs of our students and helping them achieve academic success.

So Proud of our Spartans!



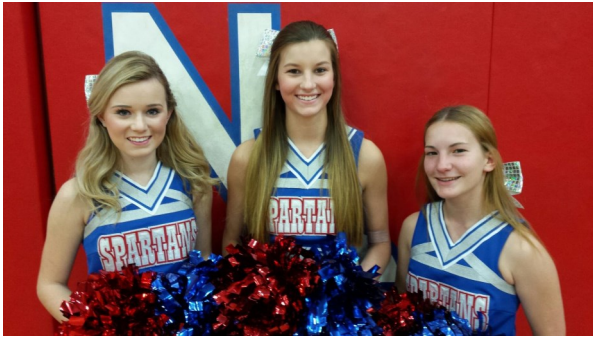
Spelling Bee Finalists



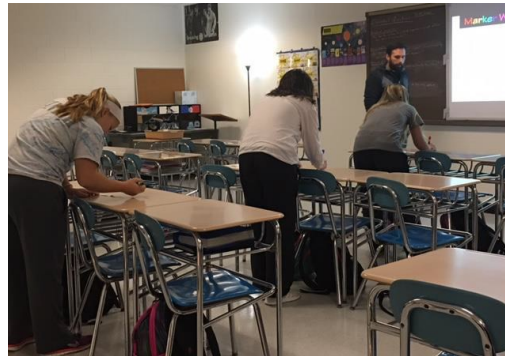
Math 24 Competition



BYOD



Cheerleaders Go to Disney and London



Creative Way to Engage Students



Fire Prevention Program



Senator Argall awards Thomas Wolfgang and Tyler Wolfgang with a proclamation from the State Senate for earning their Eagle Scout.



Diving Team



Recognizing Our Veterans



Some of Our NS Family



NSE Chorus Singing Christmas Carols in School



Wrestlers in Action

2017-2018 Kindergarten Registration



Kindergarten registration for the 2017-2018 School Year will take place during the week of: **March 13—17, 2017.**

Starting on **Monday, February 13th**, please call the office at **(570) 874-3661** to set up an appointment. Students must be 5 years old as of July 1, 2017 to register for Kindergarten. After you schedule an appointment, a **registration packet** will be mailed to you.

What you will need that day Completed **registration packet** (please be sure to complete the entire packet before arriving for your appointment), **immunization records** (originals or a copy), **3 proofs of residency**, and your child's **birth certificate**.

What to expect Upon arriving at the elementary school, you'll start the registration process in the main office where the secretary will review your registration packet.

While you meet with the secretary and the nurse, where you will also discuss medical history, your child will be administered a Kindergarten Entrance Screening. The screening has three sections—academics, motor skills, and speech. After your child has completed the screening, a teacher and speech therapist will review the results of the screening with you.

The PTO's School Store will also be open during Kindergarten Registration for parents/ guardians to shop for dress code approved clothing. Members of our PTO will also be available to answer any questions you might have about our school or becoming active in PTO.



Kindergarten Orientation will be held on Wednesday, August 23rd at 3:00. Parents/ guardians will have the opportunity to get a general overview of the Kindergarten program at North Schuylkill Elementary. The Kindergarten Teachers will explain curriculum, grading, report cards, lunch, what your child will need, snack etc. While parents/ guardians are attending Kindergarten Orientation, incoming Kindergarten Students will be invited to go on a trial bus ride! Some of the Kindergarten Teachers will ride the bus with the students and talk about the bus rules and appropriate bus behavior. We look forward to meeting you and your child!

2017-2018 School Calendar

School Calendar

At this time, the current 2016-2017 school calendar is posted on our district website. However, at the January school board meeting, the 2017-2018 school calendar, pictured to the right, was approved. The North Schuylkill School District wanted to include this in our District Newsletter to communicate future dates with the community. We understand that many begin making plans in advance and we hope it is useful for that purpose. This calendar is also posted on the NS website. If there are any updates, we will include those as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the District Office.

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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DECEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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North Schuylkill School District School Calendar 2017-2018

Approved by the Board of Education January 18, 2017

Snow Make - Up Days
April 3, March 29, April 2, 2018

School Not in Session for Teachers or Students

Early Dismissal for Students:
November 22, 2017
December 22, 2017
May 30, 2018

Teacher In-Service Days
New Teacher Orientation

2 Hour Data Delays
Sept 13 - Oct 11 - Nov 8 - Dec 13 - 2017
Jan 10 - Feb 14 - March 14 - April 11 - May 9 - 2018

Act 80 Full Day
Feb 16, 2018

Last Day of School for Students
May 30, 2018

First Day of Marking Period

Marking Periods (dates inclusive)

M.P.	From	To	Days
1	08/28/17	10/31/17	45
2	11/01/17	01/16/18	45
3	01/17/18	03/21/18	45
4	03/22/18	05/30/18	45

Number of Student Days

Aug. 4	Jan. 21
Sept. 20	Feb. 19
Oct. 21	Mar. 20
Nov. 19	Apr. 19
Dec. 16	May 21

Total: 180

Number of Teacher Days

Aug. 7	Jan. 22
Sept. 20	Feb. 19
Oct. 22	Mar. 20
Nov. 19	Apr. 19
Dec. 16	May 22

Total: 186

FEBRUARY						
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APRIL						
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MAY						
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JUNE						
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Graduation:
May 30, 2018
Prom: May 12, 2018

NSSD School Board

Please feel free to join us for our monthly school board meetings. The 2017 dates for the meetings are below. During the Committee of the Whole meetings, a number of very talented students are recognized. We are so proud to see the variety of talents that our students possess.



In December, Mr. Charles Hepler was reelected as the President of the Board. Mr. Roy Green was also reelected as the Vice President, and Mrs. Suzanne O'Neill was appointed as the PSBA Legislative Liaison. Attorney Michael O'Pake was also reappointed as the North Schuylkill School District Solicitor.

Meeting Dates:

April 19, 2017
May 17, 2017
June 21, 2017
August 16, 2017
September 20, 2017
October 18, 2017
November 15, 2017
December 6, 2017



North Schuylkill School District

15 Academy Lane
Ashland, PA 17921

District Administration:

Please feel free to contact the NSSD at any time!

NSSD

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Dr. Robert Ackell, Superintendent
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Merri Lynn Craig, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
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Robert Amos, Business Manager
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Kimberly Groody, Supervisor of Curriculum and Federal Programs
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Knute Brayford, Supervisor of Special Education
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Ashley Palubinsky, Gifted Coordinator
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Mark Andrewcavage, Coordinator of Computer Services and Technology
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James Gross, Athletic Director
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Lonnie Carl, Acting Director of Buildings and Grounds
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

North Schuylkill School District Board Directors:

Charles Hepler—President, **Roy Green**—Vice President, **Mary Anne Woodward**—Treasurer, **Suzanne O'Neill**, **Thomas Fletcher**, **Douglas Gressens**, **Edward Balkiewicz**, **Janine Simms**, **Glenn Weist**, **Michael O'Pake**—Solicitor, **Merri Lynn Craig**—Secretary

